Welfare Schemes by Central Government for Senior Citizens

8503. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare schemes sponsored by the Central Government regarding senior and old age citizens;

(b) how many homes are run by the Central Government, State Governments and by voluntary organisations;

(c) what are the future plans for the welfare of these elderly persons; and

(d) whether Government have taken any decision about employing these old and elderly people?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The Central Government is implementing a Central Sector scheme for providing assistance to voluntary organisations for programmes relating to welfare of Aged. Under this scheme grant-in-aid is provided to Voluntary Organisations for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units.

(b) No Old Age Home is being run by the Central Government. However, under the aforesaid scheme assistance is provided to Voluntary Organisations for running 209 Old Age Homes.

The information in respect of Old Age Homes being run by State Governments is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) It is proposed to continue the scheme in the coming years.

(d) The Government has not taken any such decision about employing these old and elderly people.

12 NOON

Statement by the Minister

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 1995 to Starred Question No. 443 regarding teaching of sanskrit n KVS.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Madam, I beg to make a statement correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1995 to Starred Question 443 regarding Teaching of Sanskrit in K.V.S.

In reply to a supplementary, I reported to have stated "और हमारा यह प्रयास होगा कि जल्दी दसवीं तक इसको लागू कराया जाए" "I wish to request that the words" "वैकल्पिक विषय के रूप में" 'should be added between the words 'तक" and "इसको" to ensure correct record of my statement. The reply may, therefore, be read as "और हमारा यह प्रयास होगा कि जल्दी दसवीं क्लास तक वैकल्पिक विषय के रूप में इसको लागू कराया जाए"

Statement by the Minister

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th August, 1994 to Starred Question (No. 422 regarding Corruption in the Passport offices.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): Madam, I beg to make a statement correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 1994 to Starred Question No. 422 regarding corruption in the Passport Offices...

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Madam, Mr. R. L. Bhatia is going to correct an answer given on the 24th August, 1994. It was regarding

corruption in the Passport Office. The Minister has taken a year to detect the mistake or the correctness of the answer. So, you can imagine what is happening in the Passport Office. Since, August, 1994, we have had four successive sessions and the Minister is coming now with a statement to correct it.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Madam, I had given a written answer to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 422 on 24.8.94 raised by Shri Pramod Mahajan and Shri Viren J. Shah relating to corruption in the Passport Office.

I have since noticed that there has been an inaccuracy in answering one of the supplementaries to the question put by them... (*Interruptions*)... One second, let me complete it... (*Interruptions*)...

I hereby place on the Table of the House a copy of my statement revising the answer to the supplementary to question No. 422.

While putting a supplementary relating to Starred Question No. 422, Shri Viren J. Shah referred to one Shri Balbir Singh who was involved in cheating people by getting forged passports issued to them. I referred to the case of another Balbir Singh who was an employee of the Passport Office and against whom a CBI enquiry was conducted. The omission that occurred in my reply was that while the person who was the subject matter of the CBI investigation was actually Shri Balbir Singh Gupta, Superintendent in the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh, the person referred to as "Balbir Singh" by Shri Viren J. Shah was a different person who was allegedly involved in some cases in getting forged passports. In May, 1994, the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh, was raided by the CBI. Raids were also conducted at the residences of Shri N. Guru, then acting Regional Passport Officer and Shri Balbir Singh Gupta, Superintendent. Both these cases are under investigation by the CBI and their final report is awaited. As the CBI investigation against Shri Balbir Singh Gupta, an official of the RPO Chandigarh, was in progress around the same time, the question of another Balbir Singh was put to me. Shri Balbir Singh, referred to by the hon. Member was thought to be the person against whom the CBI investigations were in progress. Accordingly, in reply to the supplementary, I stated that an enquiry against Shri Balbir Singh was in progress and as soon as it was over, I would revert to the House with a report. It is relevant to mention that the Ministry is not in a position to take action against the non-official who was referred to by Shri Viren J. Shah. Action against him can be proceeded only in a court of law. Accordingly, the case against Shri Balbir Singh Mann, for his alleged involvement in cheating and fraud cases regarding issue of passports will have to be taken to a court of law. The position has also been clarified through my reply to Unstarred Question No. 1130 dated 14.12.94.

उपसभापति : वह नाम क कारण हुआ, दो-दो नाम हो जाते हैं न ।

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, if the Minister takes nine months, time for revising his answer, how long will it take for him to eradicate corruption? That is my point... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1993-94) of National Buildings Construction Corporation New Delhi and related Papers